

**Governor's Family Violence Council Meeting**  
**Staffed by the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services**  
**Wednesday, January 11, 2023**  
**10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Participating Members:**

Jeanne Yeager, Chair  
Dorothy Lennig, Esq., Vice-Chair  
Heather Amador for Kunle Adeyemo, Esq.  
Lillian Agbeyegebe  
Reverend Lawrence Crabtree  
Jessica Dickerson for Secretary Vincent Schiraldi  
Chelsea Endzel for Joe Coale, Esq.  
Debbie Feinstein, Esq.  
Lisae Jordan, Esq. for Delegate Kriselda Valderrama  
Senator Susan Lee  
John McGinnis for Secretary Mohammed Choudhury  
Marcia Morris for Secretary Rafael Lopez  
Lisa Nitsch  
Molly O'Hara for Senator Mary Beth Carozza  
Leslye Orloff  
Jennifer Pollitt-Hill  
Stacey Rice, Esq.  
Laure Ruth, Esq.  
David Shultie  
Captain Brian Smith for Acting Superintendent Lieutenant Colonel Dalaine M. Brady  
David Wolinski for Secretary Carolyn Scruggs

**Guests:**

Stephanie Erdice, Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
Kaela Gearhart, ReloShare  
Michael Lore, Maryland General Assembly  
Melanie Shapiro, Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence

**Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services Staff:**

Rebecca Allyn, Marianne Camino

**I. Welcome & Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:02 a.m. Ms. Allyn conducted a roll call and guests introduced themselves.

**II. Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services Updates**

A Victim Services Quarterly meeting is scheduled for February 7 at 1 pm. Invites were sent to all authorized officials and project directors for current victim services grants. The Office plans to issue state grant Notice of Funding Availabilities (NOFAs) in February and federal grant NOFAs in April.

### **III. Approval of Minutes**

The October 2022 Council meeting minutes were provided to members and guests. Ms. Ruth made a motion to approve the minutes; Ms. Nitsch seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the minutes were approved.

### **IV. Safe Stays Presentation**

Ms. Gearhart with ReloShare provided members and guests with a presentation on Safe Stays by ReloShare. [Safe Stays](#) is a new, free-to-use hotel booking website designed to make it faster and easier to book hotel rooms for survivors of crime. Safe Stays users can search for and book rooms at hotels with no credit card or ID requirement at check-in at our alias-approved locations.

### **V. Workgroup Updates**

#### *a. Abuse Intervention Program (AIP) Workgroup*

The workgroup will continue to work through the potential transition to the MOU model for certification. At this time, the 2023 AIP certification application will expand upon the letters of support and define “reasonable attempts” for obtaining letters. Members will be called upon to assist with reviewing certification applications.

#### *b. Access to Benefits for Immigrant Survivors Workgroup*

Ms. Orloff shared that the workgroup is meeting tomorrow and has been actively working to recruit stakeholders that work with immigrants. The workgroup is identifying what states have laws that are effective and if there are any other training or policy changes that are needed for benefits for immigrant survivors of domestic violence.

#### *c. Stalking Workgroup*

Ms. Feinstein updated members on the workgroup’s recent meeting last month where the workgroup identified data for protective orders based on stalking. The workgroup would like to identify where the data collection points are related to stalking, and who/what agency is responsible. The workgroup will work with the Office to push out information on stalking via social media for Stalking Awareness Month in January.

#### *d. Survivor Advisory Council Workgroup*

Ms. Agbeyegbe shared that the workgroup is planning to hold focus groups with survivors pending authorization from the Office. The workgroup also plans to hold an event in October for Domestic violence Awareness Month to honor and recognize survivors.

Ms. Allyn reminded members that they should be participating in at least one workgroup.

### **VI. Legislation**

Members discussed domestic violence related legislation introduced during the 2023 Legislative Session.

- [HB 4/SB 129](#) - Criminal Law - Sexual Crimes - Repeal of Spousal Defense
- [HB 3/SB 185](#) - Maryland State Police Gun Center – Firearms Surrendered Under Final Protective Orders

Ms. Pollitt-Hill shared that the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) is planning to introduce legislation for victim compensation reform, specifically addressing domestic violence survivors. MNADV believes the legislation will improve the claims process and eligibility.

Members discussed legislation around utility debt which would allow a victim to separate from a utility contract in order to leave an abusive situation.

### **Old/New Business**

The MNADV is planning to provide advanced AIP training for facilitators in May. MNADV has hired Erin Wilkins as their AIP Coordinator.

Ms. Orloff shared that she is working on a webinar for judges on the new stalking legislation.

### **VII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:15 a.m.